

JACK ANDERSON GOOD MORNING AMERICA SHOW 17 DECEMBER 1981

Good Morning Lynn. A Federal dragnet has failed to snare any of the Lybian "hit" men who supposedly are trying to assassinate President Reagan. There may be a good reason; it's possible the hit squad doesn't exist. Now, I've dug out more of the story. Here's what happened. Lybian Dictator Muammar Qadhafi's telephone calls are monitored by U.S. intelligence. He was overheard last August talking about assassinating Reagan. Qadhafi may have been blowing off steam or he may have meant it. Then about a month ago, a man from the Christian side of Lebanon appeared at the American Embassy and offered to sell some important information. He claimed to have been present when Qadhafi plotted to have Reagan killed. The informant demanded \$500,000; in return he gave the U.S. officials the names and descriptions of men he said were on Qadhafi's assassination team. He demanded another \$250,000 for his friends. He promised they would provide information on the international drug traffic. American narcotic agents were reportedly sent to Beirut with \$250,000. Meanwhile, law enforcement agencies began an intensive search for the alledged "hit" men. Now, I picked up the secret descriptions and sketches of fourteen suspects. I showed the sketches here on "Good Morning America" and released them to the press. I thought the American people might help spot the assassins, but I also began checking on the fourteen suspects. I've discovered that several are members of a fundamentalist Moslem group; in fact, one is the groups leader. It happens to be a Sheite (phonetic spelling) Moslem sect.

that would make them followers of Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini, so it's conceivable they might want to assassinate Reagan. But they have an even stronger reason to assassinate Qadhafi. You see, they belong to a sect called "Amal" (phonetic spelling). Their former leader, Mumusa Sadar (phonetic spelling) disappeared on a visit to Lybia. They believe he was imprisoned or murdered by Qadhafi. It's highly unlikely, therefore, that these people would have anything to do with Qadhafi. It looks as if the informant may simply have conned the U.S. Government out of a possible half million bucks and other favors. Yet the government is still taking the assassination plot seriously. In fact, a new list of suspects has been compiled. A multi-million dollar search for the assassins is still going on. Americans have been withdrawn from Lybia because of the plot. Retaliation is planned against Qadhafi. Now, certainly an attempt to assassinate our President is a hostile act. The United States should crack down hard, but was Qadhafi really trying to kill Reagan? What evidence does the government have of an assassination plot? It's time for the government to come clean with the American people. David.